

**Comments:** The World History CA Curriculum Framework

**Focus Area:** Grade Seven – World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times  
Second Field Review Draft: Approved by the Instructional Quality Commission November 20, 2015

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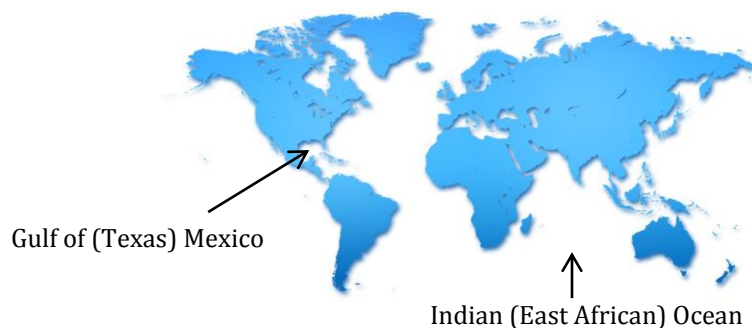
**To:** Instructional Quality Commission  
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street, Suite 3207  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners,

We appreciate the time and effort the IQC has invested in incorporating many scholars' and subject matter experts' input and recommendations into the latest proposed draft Framework.

In the interest of providing California students with the latest scholarship and historical integrity "Arabian Gulf" should not be used as an alternative to the Persian Gulf. Listed are six reasons for this recommendation:

1. According to the United Nations document on exonyms of 2006, in reference to the Persian Gulf, "any change, destruction, or alteration of the names registered in historical deeds and maps is like the destruction of ancient works and is considered as an improper action. Therefore, the names of geographical features profiting from a unique historical identity, should not be utilized as political instruments in reaching a political, tribal, and racial objective, or in any clash with national interests and other's values." The move to change the name of Persian Gulf is a politically motivated attempt by some Arab nations in the region.
2. Persian Gulf has consistently been documented in maps since the 6th century A.D., including Arabic maps, as the only valid name for that body of water. Persian Gulf depicted as Persian (Arabian) Gulf in the history text books is tantamount to Gulf of Mexico being depicted as Gulf of (Texas) Mexico or the Indian Ocean as the Indian (East African) Ocean.



3. The name Arabian Gulf has already a long tradition of being used to refer to what is more commonly known as the Red Sea.
4. Two bodies of water are already attributed to the Arabic speaking population of the region, i.e., the Arabian Sea and the Arabian Gulf (the Red Sea). The designation Persian Gulf is therefore an opportunity to acknowledge the Persian people populating its north shores, as well as acknowledging the historical significance of Persia and Persian history in the region.
5. The United Nations recognizes the Persian Gulf as the rightful name for that body of water as declared in resolutions in 1971, 1994, 1999 and 2006, to the exclusion of other designations. Please see [http://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/Geography/persian.gulf/persian\\_gulf\\_historical\\_maps.htm](http://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/Geography/persian.gulf/persian_gulf_historical_maps.htm)
6. The U.S. relationship with the Middle East is at a very sensitive time in history. To introduce incorrect scholarship will strongly suggest political alignments which may be unintentionally detrimental to future relations.

We appreciate any effort that you can spare at this critical moment in time address this very important issue.

#### **Original Comments and Highlighted Changes**

Chapter 11, Grade 7, Page 255; Lines 475

##### **Current Text:**

A map of the eastern hemisphere also shows students that Southwestern Asia, Persia, Arabia, the Red Sea, and the Persian (Arabian) Gulf were natural channels for land and sea trade in spices, textiles, and many other goods between the Indian Ocean world and the Mediterranean area.

##### **Proposed Changed Text:**

A map of the eastern hemisphere also shows students that Southwestern Asia, Persia, Arabia, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf were natural channels for land and sea trade in spices, textiles, and many other goods between the Indian Ocean world and the Mediterranean area.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration throughout the process.

Regards,  
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